

- Mr. Speaker, Last night we saw once again a great display of political theater.
- My friends across the aisle scheduled a vote on raising the nation's debt limit, knowing that it would fail.
- The vote occurred specifically after the stock market closed because they knew the harsh effect that this game could have on the market.
- This was simply an effort to distract the public away from their disastrous attempt to end Medicare as we know it.
- Under their plan, from day one, seniors will see an increase in the costs of prescription drugs and preventive health care.
- They no longer want to discuss the vote that they took to end Medicare and force seniors to pay more for less.
- We all agree that smart, responsible budget cuts are needed.
- That is why Democrats and Republicans from the House, the Senate and the administration are working together on a plan.
- We should allow for the negotiators to continue their work in good faith with open discussions on the future of our economy and how to decrease our deficit.
- Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to play petty games with the American public, we must focus

on creating jobs, jobs, jobs, and more jobs.

- I yield back.